**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 5, 2021 Contact: Brian Rothgery, 608-219-2064

## **Chairwoman Nicholson Statement on Charging Decision in Jacob Blake Case**

MILWAUKEE – County Board Chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson expressed her frustration at the lack of criminal charges in the Jacob Blake case in a statement released Tuesday.

"We all saw the video of the officer shooting Jacob Blake in the back and side seven times, and any reasonable person can see that Mr. Blake was not a threat to the officer, who could have used other means to gain compliance and arrest him, and allow the justice system to work.

"I was saddened and angry to learn of the Kenosha County District Attorney's decision not to issue criminal charges against Rusten Sheskey, the officer who shot Jacob Blake.

"This decision demonstrates once again that we have different standards of justice for law enforcement officers and for Black civilians who are victims of police violence, and we have a long way to go to dismantle institutionalized racism in Wisconsin."

"With this decision, once again we are witnessing law enforcement focus on alleged behavior of a victim of police violence and attempt to convict him in the media, rather than accountability for the law enforcement officer who used excessive and unnecessary force," said Chairwoman Nicholson.